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Programme 2
Disarmament

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Overall orientation

2.1 General and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control remains the ultimate goal of all efforts exerted in the field of disarmament. The United Nations, in accordance with its Charter, has a central role and primary responsibility in the sphere of disarmament.

2.2 The mandate for the strategic direction of the programme on disarmament derives from General Assembly resolutions on strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament (resolution 31/90) and the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (resolution S-10/2), and its decision entitled "Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly" (decision S-12/24). The Assembly has continued to adopt a considerable number of resolutions and decisions, which have established mandates for action by the Secretary-General in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. While weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, continue to be of primary concern, the international community has expressed increasing concern about the proliferation of conventional weapons, especially small arms and light weapons.

2.3 Within the Secretariat, substantive responsibility for the programme is vested in the Department for Disarmament Affairs. The Department's strategies for implementing the programme is based on its role and responsibility for facilitating and encouraging all disarmament measures — unilateral, bilateral, regional or multilateral. It will continue to assist Member States in promoting, strengthening and consolidating multilateral principles and norms in all the fields of disarmament. This will include the encouragement of universal adherence to existing multilateral disarmament agreements, without prejudice to the fact that accession to such agreements is a matter for Member States. It will promote transparency and confidence-building measures in the field of disarmament. It will expand its outreach activities, including through its web site on the Internet, to ensure the exchange of impartial and factual information on disarmament and security-related matters among organizations of the United Nations system, Member States, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations and to enhance interaction and cooperation on such matters. Through the regional centres for peace and disarmament, the Department will assist Member States in promoting regional approaches to disarmament and security.

2.4 The Department will continue to facilitate the process of multilateral deliberation and negotiation by providing substantive support to the First Committee and other subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly, the Disarmament Commission, the Conference on Disarmament and its subsidiary bodies, ad hoc disarmament bodies as may be established by the Conference on Disarmament, review conferences and other meetings of parties to multilateral agreements on disarmament and related matters, and to expert groups assisting the Secretary-General in undertaking disarmament studies.

2.5 The Department would monitor and assess current and future trends in the field of disarmament and international security and would promote a broader understanding of the importance of multilateral efforts in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. Training and advisory services, through the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme, will continue to be provided to Member States, in particular developing countries, to enhance their expertise with a view to participating more effectively in international deliberating and negotiating forums.

2.6 Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/2, gender concerns will be addressed in activities to be undertaken by the Department. In particular, Member States will be encouraged to take into account gender equality when nominating candidates as members of expert groups to undertake disarmament studies and as participants in the disarmament fellowship programme, as well as in meetings and events organized by the Department. The Department will also give special emphasis to ensuring that the composition of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters and the acquisition of consultancy services reflect gender equality in recognition of the fact that the work of the Department may have a different impact on different target groups.

Subprogramme 1
Multilateral negotiations on arms limitation and disarmament

Objectives

2.7 The main objectives of this subprogramme are to promote the development and acceptance of international norms in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, to foster universal adherence to existing multilateral disarmament treaties and to increase expertise in the field of arms limitation and disarmament in more Member States, in particular developing countries.

Strategy

2.8 The subprogramme will be implemented by the Conference on Disarmament Secretariat and Conference Support Branch in Geneva. It will provide substantive and technical support as well as political advice on issues under negotiation (a) to the Conference on Disarmament, which is the single multilateral disarmament-negotiating forum of the international community; and (b) to review conferences of the States parties to various multilateral arms limitation and disarmament agreements. It will foster the process of consensus-building on issues under negotiation and facilitate efforts to arrive at compromise solutions that would address the concerns of all Member States. It will also provide substantive support to the Secretary-General of the Conference and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the successive rotating Presidents of the Conference and Presidents of the review conferences.

2.9 Member States, in particular developing countries, will be assisted in the enhancement of their expertise in the field of international security and disarmament through the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme. Furthermore, the Branch will provide Member States and international and non-governmental organizations with timely information and advice on arms limitation and disarmament issues.

Expected accomplishments

2.10 The expected accomplishments would include:

(a) A more effective process of negotiation and deliberation;

(b) The strengthening of the implementation of existing multilateral arms limitation and disarmament treaties;

(c) Enhanced political and diplomatic skills of participants in the Fellowship Programme in conducting deliberations and negotiations in the field of disarmament.

Indicators of achievement

2.11 Indicators of achievement would include:

(a) The degree of satisfaction expressed by Member States for the services provided by the Secretariat to the Conference on Disarmament and to review conferences and other meetings of States parties to multilateral agreements on disarmament;

(b) An increase in the number of applicants for the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme and wider representation of Member States in the Programme.

Subprogramme 2
Weapons of mass destruction

Objectives

2.12 The main objectives of this subprogramme are to promote efforts to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons and to strengthen existing treaties related to weapons of mass destruction.

Strategy

2.13 Within the Department, the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch is responsible for implementing this subprogramme. The systematic and progressive reduction of nuclear weapons, with the ultimate goal of their complete destruction, remains the priority task of the international community. United Nations activities will continue to include other weapons of mass destruction, as mandated.

2.14 In order to strengthen and consolidate existing and future treaties in the area of weapons of mass destruction, the Branch will:

(a) Assist and encourage States parties and Member States in their efforts to achieve universal adherence to the agreements and effective implementation of their provisions;

(b) Promote confidence in the effectiveness of the treaty regimes;

(c) Enhance its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and international treaty organizations such as the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

2.15 In order to foster the development of new principles and norms in the field of weapons of mass destruction, the Branch will assist and support negotiations, deliberations and consensus-building. It will also monitor and assess current and future trends in the area of weapons of mass destruction and will expand interaction with non-governmental organizations and research institutes.

Expected accomplishments

2.16 The expected accomplishments would include:

(a) Enhanced security resulting from the strengthening of the instruments, principles and norms aimed at reducing the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction;

(b) Greater awareness and understanding of Member States, non-governmental organizations and civil society of new trends and developments on specific issues in the field of weapons of mass destruction.

Indicators of achievement

2.17 Indicators of achievement would include:

(a) Greater adherence to treaties in the area of weapons of mass destruction;

(b) Increased utilization by Member States and others in their deliberations of the information provided by the Branch.

Subprogramme 3
Conventional arms (including practical disarmament measures)

Objectives

2.18 The objectives of the subprogramme are to ensure greater transparency in the field of conventional arms and to curb the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Strategy

2.19 The subprogramme is implemented by the Conventional Arms (including Practical Disarmament Measures) Branch. In response to the concerns expressed by Member States about the fact that illicit proliferation and circulation of and traffic in small arms constitute an impediment to development, a threat to populations and to national and regional security and contribute to the destabilization of States, the Branch will:

(a) Provide advice and assistance on practical disarmament measures to States affected by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, at their request;

(b) Promote cooperation and coordination, within the United Nations system, of strategies on small arms, through the mechanism for Coordinating Action on Small Arms;

(c) Promote greater involvement of non-governmental organizations and civil society in curbing violence through use of small arms;

(d) Conduct follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to be held in 2001.

2.20 The Branch will promote, through expert group meetings and regional workshops, greater transparency in the field of conventional arms and the further development of and wider participation in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the standardized instrument for reporting military expenditures.

2.21 To increase understanding of the relationship between disarmament and development in current international relations, the Branch will conduct workshops, seminars and lectures, in cooperation with Member States, non-governmental organizations and civil society at the national, regional and international levels.

Expected accomplishments

2.22 It is expected that the subprogramme would lead to the following:

(a) Broader participation in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the standardized instrument for reporting military expenditures;

(b) Enhanced stability and security resulting from the reduction of the threat posed by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and the illicit arms traffic.

Indicators of achievement

2.23 Indicators of achievement would include:

(a) An increase in the number of Member States participating in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the standardized instrument for reporting military expenditures;

(b) An increase in the number of effective regional initiatives combating illicit trafficking of small arms;

(c) An increased number of requests by Member States for assistance in developing and implementing weapons collection and destruction programmes.

Subprogramme 4
Monitoring, database and information

Objectives

2.24 The main objectives of the subprogramme are to foster understanding, on the part of Member States and the public, of the importance of multilateral action in the field of disarmament, to promote acceptance of international norms and to facilitate implementation of legal instruments on disarmament issues.

Strategy

2.25 This subprogramme is implemented by the Monitoring, Database and Information Branch. The objective of this subprogramme will be pursued through:

(a) Strengthening the disarmament information system, including the electronic component;

(b) Publishing up-to-date information on United Nations disarmament activities, including on the Internet;

(c) Developing modalities for increased collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, organizations of the United Nations system, the research community, non-governmental organizations and civil society;

(d) Enhancing the work of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters;

(e) Dissemination of data provided officially by Governments on transparency measures.

Expected accomplishments

2.26 The expected accomplishments would include:

(a) Better preparedness of States to undertake multilateral deliberations and negotiations in the field of disarmament;

(b) Increased public support for multilateral action in the field of disarmament;

(c) Greater transparency among the parties to relevant legal instruments.

Indicators of achievement

2.27 The indicators of achievement would include:

(a) A better flow of factual and objective information regarding various aspects of disarmament and easier access by end-users to such information (status of treaties, treaty obligations, progress in negotiations, etc.);

(b) Increased demand for information and assistance.

Subprogramme 5
Regional disarmament

Objective

2.28 The objective of this subprogramme is to promote and enhance international efforts towards global disarmament and international peace and security, through the adoption and implementation of regional and subregional initiatives.

Strategy

2.29 The subprogramme is implemented by the Regional Disarmament Branch and the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Centre for Peace,

Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. It has been generally recognized that regional disarmament could play a vital role in promoting and enhancing international efforts towards global disarmament.

2.30 The objective of this subprogramme will be pursued through:

(a) Advisory services and assistance (including training) to Member States, at their request, and to regional and subregional organizations;

(b) Timely dissemination of information to regional and subregional organizations on decisions taken by the United Nations towards the improvement of the climate of international peace and security, in order to encourage and assist them in promoting the adoption and implementation by their Member States of confidence-building measures in their respective regions;

(c) Support of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

(d) Organization of conferences, seminars and workshops;

(e) Monitoring and analysis;

(f) Development and maintenance of a database and web site on initiatives and activities of regional and subregional organizations in the areas of disarmament and security.

Expected accomplishments

2.31 The expected accomplishments would include:

(a) Enhanced regional dialogue among States, regional and subregional organizations on peace, security and disarmament issues;

(b) Wider appreciation of the importance of regional disarmament for global peace and security.

Indicators of achievement

2.32 Indicators of achievement would include:

(a) An increase in the number of confidence-building measures adopted and/or implemented;

(b) Increased international support for regional activities related to the promotion of regional peace and security.

Legislative mandates

Programme 2
Disarmament

General Assembly resolutions

31/90	Strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament
S-10/2	Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly
46/36 L	Transparency in armaments
47/54 B	Guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters
47/54 D	Implementation of the guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures
47/54 G	Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session
52/30	Compliance with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements
52/40 C	Role of the United Nations in disarmament
52/220, annex III	Changes to be made in the programme narrative contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals"
54/52	Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons
54/54	General and complete disarmament
54/55	Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly
54/56	Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session
54/58	Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects
54/60	Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)
54/61	Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

General Assembly decisions

S-12/24	Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly
54/416	Compliance with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements

Subprogramme 1
Multilateral negotiations on arms limitation and disarmament

General Assembly resolutions

47/52 E	Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques
53/77 I	The Conference on Disarmament decision to establish, under item 1 of its agenda entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", an ad hoc committee to negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices
53/78 G	United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services
54/53	Prevention of an arms race in outer space

Subprogramme 2
Weapons of mass destruction

General Assembly resolutions

42/38 C	Notification of nuclear tests
44/116 O	Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof
50/78	Final text of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (the Treaty of Pelindaba)
52/35	Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia
53/77 G	Nuclear testing
53/77 L	Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol
54/44	Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons
54/48	African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)

54/51	Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East
54/57	The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East
54/63	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Subprogramme 3
Conventional arms (including practical disarmament measures)

General Assembly resolutions

35/142	Reduction of military budgets
54/43	Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures
54/50	Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

General Assembly decision

50/419	Reduction of military budgets

Subprogramme 4
Monitoring, database and information

General Assembly resolutions

38/183 O	Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies
47/54 F	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
50/72 B	Disarmament Week
52/38 H	Contributions towards banning anti-personnel landmines
53/78 E	United Nations Disarmament Information Programme
54/46	Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification
54/49	Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

General Assembly decision

54/418	Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

Subprogramme 5
Regional disarmament

General Assembly resolutions

2992 (XXVII)	Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace
43/85	Strengthening of regional and international peace and security

53/77 A	Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia
53/77 D	Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status
53/77 H	Regional disarmament
54/47	Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace
54/59	Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

General Assembly decision

54/417	Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia